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REPORT

OF THE

Select Committee

OF THE

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

TO WHOM WAS REFERRED

THE MEMORIAL OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE INSANE HOSPITAL.

REPORT.

The Committee to whom was referred the memorial of the Commissioners of the Insane Hospital, have given the subject that careful consideration which it so justly merits.

The subject of Insane Hospitals is one which certainly demands the serious attention of the Legislature inasmuch as every citizen of the State is directly or indirectly interested in the benificent objects of this Institution, as he knows not at what time some untoward circumstance may cause him to require its aid. The patronage of State has been wisely and providently extended to the promotion of those interests, which enhance the happiness and prosperity of its citizens while in the enjoyment of the physical and mental faculties, with which they have been endowed by their Creator, according to their wants, as developed by their energy and enterprise.

This policy has been adopted and extended to a deserving class, but who at the same time do possess the powers of sustenance and self-preservation.

The committee believe that the interest of the State is deeply involved in neglecting, thus far, to extend their liberal aid to those unfortunate beings, who, deprived of reason, and consequently of self protection, are dependent upon the State for their restoration to society.

In the State of Maryland, according to the last census there were 900 Insane and Idiots, of whom the State has only accommodation for 125—about one sixth of the whole number.

This fact induced the General Assembly of 1852 to appoint commissioners to purchase a suitable site for an Insane Hospital, and to appropriate the sum of $10,000 for that purpose. The commissioners with a laudable zeal, and aided by the munificence of some private citizens of Baltimore city, purchased a site for the purpose. Its location near Baltimore city is beautiful and commanding, and reflects great credit upon the judgment and taste of the commissioners and the building, according to the plan adopted by the Board, will be one, of which the State may proudly boast. It is intended to accommodate 250 patients, (one half

of whom are to be taken from the counties and cities at an annual cost of $100, the other half at a higher price, to meet the expenses of the Institution, and so arranged as to contain apartments, adapted to the condition of the patients in the various stages of mental derangement. Its estimated cost is $150,000, which is as low as any building that has been constructed for that purpose in any of the States.

The gentlemen to whom the State has confided this important trust, have proved themselves equal to the task, and ask of this Legislature such aid as in their wisdom they may deem proper.

The faith of the State is pledged to the prosecution of this noble undertaking—the cause of humanity imperatively demands it, and the interests of the people require it.

The calculation, based upon tables, amounting to 50.000 cases show that 80 per cent of cases taken in time and put under proper medical treatment, are curable, and have been restored to the bosoms of their desponding families and their wonted places in society. Whereas, experience and observation prove that neglected cases permitted to become chronic, cause the patient to be an incubus upon his friends and a loss to society, or fastened upon the State for permanent support.

In view of the foregoing facts, your committee beg leave to recommend an annual appropriation of fifteen thousand dollars for the next two years. All of which is most respectfully submitted.

E. J. HALL.